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# HULL HOUSE INVESTIGATION OF TYPHOID EPIDEMIC. The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor from the Settlement Point of View.

Number 82—Vol. VIII

Eighth Year

Chicago, May, 1903

## A Settlement in City Politics.

The fourth successful political campaign hand-running, in which Chicago Commons has taken effective part, was won last month. As the settlement experience and civic significance of the three victorious years may prove sug-

struggle for the redemption of the ward and city.

It was no less significant in the fact that the regular nominee of the Republican ward organization was elected in a Democratic ward and with a Democratic victory for the mayoralty



THE PUSH-O-MOBILE.

gestive and encouraging to others as to ourselves, we let our readers have the story without misgiving even for its local coloring.

The election of Lewis D. Sitts as alderman of the Seventeenth Ward scored perhaps the most marked success which the Municipal Voters' League of Chicago and our Seventeenth Ward community have yet attained in their joint

and most of the city ticket. For to overcome a majority of nearly a thousand votes and have 381 to spare proves again that the balance of power is in the hands of the independent voters. The fact, too, that one party heeded their wishes and lined up its ward organization behind a man who commanded the non-partisan respect and support, is proof that independent

voters may succeed, and even the better, without forming an independent party. The defeat of the opposing candidate is also corroborative of this. For when the independents' protest against his nomination, because of his incompetence, was disregarded by the mayor, it cost him nearly 1,000 votes, which he could ill afford to lose in the closely contested election. The occurrence of this warning for the second time, with the demonstrated success of the opposite policy in between, ought to be a word to the wise sufficient for all time to come. For the retiring republican alderman, Mr. Smulski, was elected two years ago by nearly 1,300 votes in a Democratic year, and succeeded in being elected city attorney in the last campaign by running over 8,000 votes ahead of his party ticket. Meanwhile the reputable and able Democratic aldermen now so efficiently serving the city and the ward took his seat a year ago with a majority of over 1,800 behind him.

Between these elections came the legislative campaign of last autumn into which the independents entered for the first time with a candidate of their own—because both parties not only ignored their protest but gave them no choice. In the election of their aggressively public-spirited representative they filed an exception to the ruling of both parties, which offered only three candidates for three offices, and presented only one worthy of support. Chicago Commons has taken great satisfaction in these results. For while it could by no means have achieved them alone, yet it is openly admitted by all the candidates and the press that without the work of the Community Club, backed by the Settlement, under whose roof it has its headquarters, neither the Municipal Voters League nor the party "organizations" could have possibly won these victories for good government.

Very practical were the politics played by these allies. To the Community Club fell the work of supporting the nomination of Mr. Sitts by the caucus and at the primaries; eliciting answers from both candidates to questions personally and publicly put to them by the club as to their policies on the civic issues of the campaign; publishing the records of each in circular letters to the 13,400 registered voters and securing the support of the metropolitan and local press. In some of the campaigns the club, including all our men residents, have taken the most active part as watchers and challengers at the polls, while the House supplied them with lunches at the seat of war and had

hot dinners awaiting them on their triumphal return at night.

A pleasant and remarkable feature of the last campaign was the ability of Chicago Commons to maintain its neutrality in the mayoralty issue, while backing the citizens' Community Club in the fierce aldermanic struggle. Each of the six candidates for mayor was invited to meet his ward organization at the Settlement dinner table and present his claim to be elected before mass meetings. Nothing whatever occurred to mar the pleasure of these social occasions, which were very successful in securing their principal guests, or to impair the success of the political meetings which crowded our auditorium. At the very crisis of the aldermanic fight, when the Community Club's headquarters in the basement was the center of the struggle for electing the successful candidate, the lithographs of his then formidable competitor lined the walls of the auditorium overhead, and his party associates were heard by hundreds of our neighbors.

The occasion on which the victory was celebrated was one of the heartiest responses Chicago Commons ever received to its proffered hospitality. At the Settlement dinner table were gathered the official representatives of the ward and the Municipal Voters League, together with other prominent guests, to meet the newly elected alderman of our own and the adjoining Sixteenth Ward. At the Community Club's congratulatory reception the same evening bright speeches were made by Prof. John A. Hobson, the eminent English publicist, the aldermen and their Democratic colleagues, by Father Spetz, of St. Stanislaus' great Polish Catholic parish, which led the overthrow of one of the most dangerous bosses by electing Alderman Jozwiakowski. Walter L. Fisher and Graham Taylor spoke for the Municipal Voters League. Over a hundred invited guests gave the most enthusiastic response and made merry in social festivities until late in the evening. For charming freedom of speech and neighborly intercourse the occasion was simply idyllic.

While the battle is still to be fought over and over again, a vantage ground of immense strategic value has been gained in only three years in a most cosmopolitan ward of 68,000 people that used to be considered the most forlorn of hopes even by those accustomed to work for better things against great odds. The initial struggle with violence and fraud for freedom to vote and a fair count was fought to a finish at the outset. It is not likely to be repeated, as it cost the imprisonment of two election clerks for three

years in penalty for altering the returns so as to count out the independent who was nevertheless seated.

A central source of leadership and supply for the city-wide campaign is the first essential to such success, and is furnished most effectively by the Municipal Voters League. But the Settlement with its non-partisan free-floor for the co-operation of independent voters of all parties provides the "live wire" which bring to bear the forces at the center upon the men who do things in the wards. To some degree the Settlement has superseded the saloon as the determinative center whence the balance of power is wielded. While the saloons are still to be reckoned with and must be visited as the only places of resort the men have, yet they have ceased to be the candidate's only reliance. For the last two men who depended exclusively upon buying their way in by subsidizing the bar were signally defeated. The word has gone out that "the 'saloon canvas' is played out in the Seventeenth Ward, and that the parties must nominate decent men if their candidates are to have any chance of election." When this word has been accepted and acted upon the Settlement clubs need endorse no candidate, and will with much more satisfaction devote themselves to offering all sides the freest hearing and fairest chance in substantiating their claims to the best political principles and municipal policies.

#### AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSES OF THE RECENT EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID FEVER IN CHICAGO.

BY HULL-HOUSE RESIDENTS.

During July, August and September of 1902 there was an unusually severe epidemic of typhoid fever in Chicago, which raised the death rate to 402 from this disease alone, as against 212 during the same three months of the previous year.

In discussing the causes for this outbreak of typhoid Dr. Reynolds, Commissioner of Health, speaks as follows:

"There was no sewer-flushing rainfall during the entire period from October, 1902, to March, 1903, and the city sewer-flushing, always inadequate, was wholly suspended in January on account of the lack of funds. The sewers were congested with filth, of which typhoid stools formed a component part, and the surface of the earth, in city and country alike, was covered with the five months' accumulations. \* \* \* From March to July inclusive was the wettest season on record. The sewers were repeatedly

flushed out, and the accumulated surface filth was washed away into streams, ponds and the lake. \* \* \* In August a succession of high variable winds set in, the strongest being from the west. The lake bottom was vigorously stirred up by high-wave action, the sewage was drifted to the intakes, and the water-supply from all sources became so contaminated that it averaged only 38 per cent. good for the month."

This pollution of the water-supply was undoubtedly the greatest causative factor in the epidemic of the past summer, but there are one or two subsidiary factors which are not brought out in the report of the Board of Health and which may serve to explain the peculiar localization of this epidemic. The mortality statistics of the Board of Health show that a comparatively small area on the West Side was the region most severely affected. Within the limits of the Nineteenth Ward, which contains only one thirty-sixth of the total population of the city, there were between one-sixth and one-seventh of all the deaths from this disease. This part of the city is inhabited largely by working people. It contains one of the largest Italian quarters, most of the Greek colony, a small Bohemian colony, the northern end of the Jewish quarter, and the western part is chiefly American-Irish. As far as the general intelligence of the inhabitants is concerned, their knowledge of the laws of hygiene, their general housing conditions, cleanliness, overcrowding, etc., this part of the city does not differ from the other semi-foreign quarters, yet it suffered much more than any in this epidemic. Evidently there must have been some local conditions which favored the spread of the infection. The drinking-water alone could not be responsible, for this part of the city is supplied from the Chicago avenue and Fourteenth street tunnels, the same water-supply as that for the whole region between Forty-seventh and Lake streets, Canal street and Western avenue. Nor could the milk be chargeable, for though in this neighborhood the milk is often badly diluted, yet it averaged quite as good as that supplied to a prosperous residence district to the west, as shown by analyses made of the milk of both districts by the University of Illinois in 1898.

To those who studied the distribution of the cases of typhoid fever it soon became evident that the number was greatest in those streets where removal of sewage is most imperfect. This is an old part of the city; the sewers in many of the streets were laid before the

great fire, at a time when the neighborhood was more sparsely settled, and when usually not more than one family occupied each house. Adequate at that time, they are far from adequate now, and it takes only a moderate increase in the rainfall to make the sewage back up into vaults and closets, while clogging is of common occurrence in dry weather. The yards and closets are often below the level of the street, and are therefore easily overflowed. Last spring during the flooding rains it was no uncommon thing to see one of these yards, from six to fourteen feet below the level of the street, covered with several inches of foul water which in the neighborhood of the privy was distinctly sewage-contaminated. In this way the earth of the yards and that under the basement tenements became soaked with diluted excreta.

This condition of things is made possible by the primitive arrangements for the disposal of dejecta which prevail in this part of the city. Two of the residents of Hull House, which is situated almost in the center of the typhoid district, made a careful house-to-house investigation, noting the conditions as to drainage in each house and also the number of cases of typhoid fever which had appeared in each during the three months in question. Two thousand and two dwellings were thus investigated. A few extracts from the notebooks of the Hull House residents will give an idea of some of the conditions found:

DeKoven street (Jewish): Vault, said to be connected, but full; basement full of sewage-contaminated water from backing-up of sewer.

Law avenue (Greek): Seventy-six persons using three small closets under the house; very filthy; apparently no sewer connections.

Bunker street (Bohemian and Polish): Unconnected vaults; very foul; ten cases of typhoid with four deaths in this tenement; sixteen families.

Law avenue (colored): Connected, but out of order; full to the floor; boards at back are broken away so that cesspool is quite exposed.

Ewing street (Italian): Cesspool, said to have sewer connection, but full and running over, so that stream of sewage runs down the yard.

Taylor street (Italian): Old-fashioned privy; no sewer connection; one of six privies in a yard between a four-story front tenement and a three-story rear tenement. While we were inspecting it, a woman came down with a vessel filled with discharge from a typhoid patient,

which she emptied into the vault. No disinfectant was used.

Aberdeen street (Irish): One large vault used by sixteen families; very foul-smelling; unconnected. This was cleaned by a scavenger during August, and the filth left standing in an open barrow in the alley between two houses for a week. It was so offensive that the tenants in these two houses were obliged to keep their windows on that side closed. Complaints to the Health Department and Garbage Inspector were fruitless, and finally the personal influence of a physician prevailed over the landlord and he removed it, but not until it had stood there during a week of warm weather, when, naturally, the place swarmed with flies. There were five cases of typhoid fever in each of the two houses next to the alley.

Blue Island avenue (French, German, Irish and Greek): One vault for ten families; overflows into the yard at every heavy rainfall, so that the yard is impassable for two or three days and tenants must reach the closets from the alley.

It was found that only 967 dwellings, or 48 per cent. of the whole number investigated, had modern sanitary plumbing, as was made obligatory for all buildings by an ordinance passed in 1896. One hundred and forty-eight dwellings, or 7 per cent. of the whole number, had plumbing so badly out of order as to be a menace to health. Four hundred and thirty-three, or 22 per cent., had out-of-door water-closets supplied from the waste water from the kitchen sink and the rain-water from the roof. Two hundred and eighteen dwellings, or 11 per cent., had privy vaults with sewer connection, but without water-supply; vaults which are cleaned either by a scavenger or by means of a hose connected with the hydrant, and which, if not frequently cleaned, cannot be distinguished from the undrained, old-fashioned privies which form the fifth variety, and of which there are still 236 in this neighborhood, or 12 per cent. of the whole number.

Now, if there is any causative relation between the conditions described above and the distribution of the cases of typhoid fever, it must be largely through the agency of flies, since we know that typhoid infection cannot be breathed in but must be taken in through the mouth. It is true that germ-laden dust blown by the wind may also be a mode of conveyance of the infection. The typhoid bacillus has been shown to retain its vitality in dry soil for over sixty days. However, it was only after the middle of August that this agency



could have come into play to any great extent, for up to that time there had been constant rains, and there was practically no dust.

The importance of the common housefly in the spreading of typhoid infection was emphasized by Majors Reed, Vaughan and Shakespeare in their report on the "Origin and Spread of Typhoid Fever in the United States Military Camps during the Spanish War of 1898." They state that in many of the camps "flies were undoubtedly the most active agents in the spread of typhoid fever. Flies alternately visited and fed upon the infected fecal matter and the food in the mess-tents. More than once it happened, when lime had been scattered over the fecal matter in the pits, flies with their feet covered with lime were seen walking over the food."

Various laboratory investigators have shown that flies which are made to feed on cultures of typhoid germs will carry these germs on their legs and proboscis, and, if made then to walk upon sterile culture medium, will deposit the germs there. It seemed very probable, therefore, that the germs contained in the fecal matter from typhoid patients might adhere to the legs of flies which had frequented open privies containing such discharges and might be carried by them into the houses and shops and deposited upon food. This would seem to explain the connection between undrained vaults and typhoid epidemics. To settle this question a large number of ordinary houseflies were captured in two undrained, full and filthy privies, upon the fences and walls of the houses near them, and in a kitchen in which a typhoid patient lay. These flies were put into culture tubes and subjected to the usual methods of bacteriological examination at the laboratory of the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases. In five out of eighteen tubes the bacillus of typhoid fever was discovered.

When conditions such as those described above exist in any part of a city, they form a lasting menace to the health of the community. The danger is not over with the ending of warm weather and the subsidence of the epidemic. Experiments have shown that the urine and feces of recovered typhoid patients contain living bacilli for many weeks after every trace of the illness is over. The winter cold does not kill the bacilli: they have been found living in sewage-polluted soil 315 days after they were planted there, although in ordinary non-polluted soil they soon disappear. There is every reason, therefore, to fear a recurrence of the epidemic next summer, and it was in the

hope of inaugurating preventive measures that this investigation was undertaken.

The residents of Hull House who made the house-to-house visits found only a hearty co-operation on the part of the tenants. In the houses containing several cases of typhoid there was a touching eagerness "to have something done about it." They encountered a general feeling of anxiety and helplessness, and in some instances bitterness and indignation that life had been needlessly endangered and lost. Among the latter at least two fatal cases had occurred in houses which were scrupulously clean and sanitary, but in close proximity to illegal and uncared-for vaults.

This district is, of course, subject to the same provision by the Board of Health which obtains all over the city, and which is perhaps entirely adequate in neighborhoods where the population is accustomed to modern sanitary plumbing and able to afford it and to keep it in order. In this region, however, it is at once plain, when careful house-to-house visits are made, that the powers and supervision which may appear sufficient in a prosperous neighborhood in the newer parts of town do not secure wholesome conditions or even full compliance with the city ordinances here. It seemed, accordingly, a natural feature of this inquiry to endeavor to learn the scope of the Board's powers and the methods it employs.

As it was frequently stated that complaints received no attention, the manner of dealing with them was first examined.

When the Board of Health receives reports which are properly signed and authenticated, these are distributed by the receiving clerk to the boxes of inspectors according to districts. Thus each inspector receives every morning the complaints of the day before. A complaint, however urgent, unless made in person at the office before 9:30 a. m., cannot be acted upon in the regular way until at least the day after it is made. Complaints by telephone and anonymous communications are disregarded.

The inspector each morning looks over his allotment of complaints. He may decide, for one of many reasons, that a complaint does not deserve a visit, in which case he so informs the clerk, who does not enter it on the record. Otherwise, the case is entered by the clerk in a permanent record, giving the address of the house to be visited, violation claimed, and name of inspector. The complaint inspectors' districts are large. One district, for instance, includes the territory between West Madison and Twelfth streets, and stretches from the river

on the east to the city limits on the west. Although the complaint inspectors receive aid from the inspectors who combine complaint work with the inspection of plumbing in new buildings, yet one can easily credit the statement that there is no time for "pick-up-work," meaning violations which they themselves may discover. The force is small, usually from seven to nine men, and the inspector seldom succeeds in making an immediate report. Some delay is, therefore, inevitable, although one man recently turned in thirty-nine reports under one date, having given in nothing for four days before and none for eight days after that date. Of the thirty-nine reports a surprising number were marked "no cause for complaint." Such an instance, apparently unchallenged by the department, suggests a condition of irregularity much more damaging than the inevitable delay of an overworked force.

If the inspector's first report shows a violation of ordinance, a notice is sent from the department ordering changes. Three or four such notices may be sent. If no attention is paid to the notices, suit is instituted theoretically; in practice this occurs rarely. The records show an "abatement" column, in which is set a date, presumably that on which the inspector called and found the nuisance abated in accordance with notice. This "abatement" column contains no details, nor does it give the essential facts of the violation. If suit is brought, there is no entry in the "abatement" column.

On the testimony of the inspectors themselves they are often satisfied with a mere "clean-up," or they become convinced that nothing can be done. It is impossible to learn the actual state of property from the records. For instance, the city ordinance has forbidden open privy vaults since 1896, but when complaint is made of such a vault the record "nuisance abated" frequently means merely that the inspector has ordered the owner to order the scavenger. Having done this, the inspector may report to the office that the "nuisance is abated," although the most revolting conditions still prevail and the situation itself—the very existence of the vault—is illegal. There is absolutely no method of determining from the records in the case of specific tenements whether or not any effort has been made to enforce the ordinance of 1896.

It is well to reiterate that the services of a scavenger, if secured, would not meet the legal requirements, as the very existence of these vaults has been illegal since the passage of ordinance No. 1122 in 1896. The figures for the Board of Health for recent years as to these vaults are as follows:

|                        | 1900  | 1901  | 1902  |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Vaults cleaned .....   | 4,049 | 3,365 | 2,466 |
| Vaults abolished ..... | 1,247 | 1,404 | 1,164 |

Comparing the statements as to numbers of vaults cleaned and abolished, it would appear that there still exist 1,302 vaults. This assumes what is by no means uniformly true, that each vault is cleaned once a year. The residents of Hull House who made the investigation constantly encountered rumors of inspectors who made visits to places obviously illegal and dangerous to health, but who reported to the department "no cause for complaint." The explanation rife in the neighborhood is that the inspector is "fixed."

The unfortunate discretionary power lodged in the inspector is often used in favor of the landlord, who urges that the returns from the property do not warrant the expenditures necessary to comply with the law. As the purpose of this inspection is solely in the interests of public health and sanitation, on what grounds have the inspectors a right to consider private real-estate interests when these public interests are at stake?

There is no doubt that the influence of politics or wealth often intervenes in favor of the landlord, who does not wish to incur the expense of sanitary plumbing, and the Board of Health gives as an excuse for the existence of many of these illegal vaults that their prosecutions have been non-suited, although here again the Board of Health records show nothing. The following instances show the results of such influences:

There are only open vaults attached to certain houses on Jefferson street, owned by the brother of a well-known politician.\*

When these vaults were overfilled during the last summer and the tenants were unable to secure the scavenger from the landlord, they made two complaints to the Board of Health, but with absolutely no result, save the visit of an inspector. Another case of politician's ownership is found on Forquer street, where, in a row of houses sheltering sixteen families, there is provided only one large open vault. Repeated complaints have been unavailing to secure anything beyond the mere visits of an inspector.

In another instance a tenement was owned by an ex-alderman. The main waste-pipe of the building was broken for more than five months,

\*For obvious reasons, the exact locations of houses mentioned are not given, but full and exact details have been obtained and are preserved at Hull House.

to the knowledge of the investigator. The basement was flooded with filth for that period. At the same time the closet on the second floor, separated from the living-rooms of a tenant by a loose-hanging door, was clogged, so that on the floor there was a puddle which the woman daily swept down the front stairway. This liquid filth also seeped through the ceiling and dripped down on the floor below, occupied by a Greek. The condition of this building has been reported to the Department of Health at least five times during this period, as can be proved by affidavits. Yet nothing was done, and the records of the department show no complaints. In the meantime the water-supply pipe was broken, so that for the last three weeks of this period water could not be drawn on the second floor for any purpose. Finally a personal appeal to the head of the department secured the visit of an inspector, whose report was truthful and showed the need of instant action. Nothing was done, however, until ten days later, after repeated inquiries over the telephone and a threat of publicity, a suit was begun. It has been found that suits of this character frequently result either in a trifling fine (which it is much cheaper to pay than to make repairs) or in an appeal which may postpone the matter for two years or longer. At this point the corporation counsel was appealed to personally, and under his vigorous orders the suit was pressed and repairs were at once made on the one house in question, but of so flimsy a character that, although the requirements of the law were ostensibly complied with, in a month the condition was worse than before. It remains to be said, further, that the owner has adjacent property, also in shameful condition, which is untouched. This property is in litigation and, as the title is uncertain, there is a point of view from which it seems a hardship that a nominal owner may be compelled to pay heavy repair bills for which he may be unable to secure reimbursement. From this point of view, also, a certain leniency at the City Hall may seem only a decent courtesy. On the other hand, the tenant keeps on paying full rent in advance. His little business is established at this point and would be injured or destroyed by removal, as it is constantly injured to some degree by the bad state of the building. He pays for what he does not get, his interests are prejudiced, his health and that of his family are injured, and he has no redress. The law, official courtesy, and official supervision are all exerted in favor of the owner of the real estate as against the tenant and against the third and most important interest, the public health.

The law's delays, the carelessness, or worse, of inspectors, the indifference of landlords, each alone or combined, may put off the most essential repairs for months and even for years, as is frequently seen. *Yet, in fact, the city ordinances are full and explicit in affording to the Department of Public Health complete power to summarily abate nuisances and adequately protect the health and lives of tenants, so far as they are threatened by unwholesome sanitary arrangements.*

As the investigation showed, occupants of property where there is the most scrupulous compliance with sanitary ordinances cannot safeguard their own health or their lives if near them are such nuisances as have been described above. What is thus true of this district is true of the whole city. The river wards cannot be isolated from the other resident portions of the town. In this district are the stables of various large firms whose delivery wagons are sent throughout the city and suburbs; many of the teams doing city contract work are kept here; the peddlers' carts which carry fruit and vegetables in every direction within a day's journey start in large numbers from this region and their supplies are stored here. With all these go the houseflies, bearing, as we may believe, the typhoid germ.

#### THE SOWER.

Who is it coming on the slant brown slope,  
Touched by the twilight and her mournful  
hope—

Coming with Hero step, with rhythmic swing,  
Where all the bodily motions weave and sing?  
The grief of the ground is in him, yet the power  
Of the Earth to hide the furrow with the flower.

He is the stone rejected, yet the stone  
Whereon is built metropolis and throne.  
Out of his toil come all their pompous shows,  
Their purple luxury and plush repose;  
The grime of this bruised hand keeps tender  
white

The hands that never labor, day nor night.  
His foot that only knows the field's rough floors  
Sends lordly steps down echoing corridors.

Yea, this vicarious toiler at the plow  
Gives that fine pallor to my lady's brow.  
And idle armies, with their boom and blare,  
Flinging their foolish glory on the air—  
He hides their nakedness, he gives them bed,  
And by his alms their hungry maws are fed.

Not his the lurching of an aimless clod,  
For, with the august gesture of a god—  
A gesture that is question and command—  
He hurls the bread of nations from his hand;  
And in the passion of the gesture flings  
His fierce resentment in the face of Kings.

—Excerpts from Edwin Markham's poem, written after seeing Millet's painting, "The Sower," and contributed to the New York Journal.

## THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF THE COUNTRY CHURCH.

BY JOHN J. MARTIN.

Social service in rural districts as everywhere is most fascinating in its nature and boundless in its influence. The only requisite to stir the depths of any social servant here is for him to thoroughly identify himself with the actual needs of the society in which he lives. This identification of oneself which stirs one to enthusiastic activity compels also the recognition of certain features of service which cannot be overlooked without serious hindrance to social progress. My own identification with country parishes has revealed to me certain functions of social service which I think the country pastor and his church cannot ignore without serious loss to the purpose for which they exist.

The first of these functions of service relates to the matter of roads. We do not always remember it, and yet the subject of roads is very vitally connected with social progress and spiritual development. The Kingdom of God does not come up out of the earth; it comes down out of heaven from God. It is to be realized through the preaching of Christ. Now, however much we may be willing to embody in this term, it is patent to every sane person that unless men come together for worship, for instruction in holy things, for the purpose of having their finer natures quickened, their consciences become hardened, their ideals low and sordid, their living corrupt. But what have roads to do with this? The answer is not difficult. The leisure season for country folk is the winter. It is then that the social servant must work most ardently to accomplish his ends. In planting and harvesting times the people are neither physically, mentally nor spiritually fitted to develop their higher selves, even if they had the time. The matter then reduces itself to this that if they are to be ministered to and to minister to one another they must do so in the winter months chiefly when they have the time at their disposal and are not overworked. But it is then that the roads militate against every suggestion that looks toward social progress and social perfection. People are not likely to drive long distances in the cold when driving is not only slow but also aggravating, and when carriage and horse and health are jeopardized. The consequence is that people stay at home and do not get that necessary inspiration for symmetrical living suggested above. When roads are good, people turn out. Driving is then a pleasure. They

are then not detained by storms. Mingling together in the atmosphere of holy communion, they gain the spiritual impetus for life's duties, are prevented from living isolated and profitless lives, and are moved to sympathize with their neighbors. Let the country church, therefore, agitate the question of good roads. Let the trained mind of its pastor show the advantages of this in its relations to the saving in transportation and to general convenience as well as its benefits to the moral and spiritual development of the people. Christian men must subdue the earth and make it tributary to the Kingdom of God.

A second matter in which the country church can serve the community is in regard to its educational interests. The separation of Church and State has had the general tendency on the Church to feel that all it had to do was to see that Divine worship was conducted in the community and to minister in those things which are directly religious, leaving the affairs of the community which grow out of religion to be guided by whom they may. This has been a mistake. The result has been disastrous, and especially so in our rural districts. Here, notwithstanding all that our educationalists have attempted to do and have accomplished in the past decades, in almost every instance the country school is furthest from what it should be. The condition is this: The vast majority of patrons have actually no intelligent interest in the school. A teacher is hired, set down in the school house, must get her board and lodging where she can, is seldom if ever visited in her work by directors or parents, and the result is that, unless she is exceedingly and conscientiously devoted to her work, under the dull monotony of a rural school and the unreasonable criticism of criminally careless patrons, she slumps into commercialism, beats time through her term, and is never awake to the fact that she is dealing with, and shaping, immortal beings—beings that constitute the State, indeed, as we hold, beings that constitute Heaven.

The country church cannot be indifferent to this condition. It cannot without loss to its cause say that this is purely a matter for the State. It can serve the community in this respect and it must. The clergyman should be intimately identified with this interest. His library should be stocked with the best pedagogical literature and should be accessible to the teachers. The teachers should be made to feel that they are co-workers with the church and the families in the community in which they



labor in society's most constructive work. On the initiative of the pastor and the leading men in his church, there should be meetings arranged in which directors and teachers and patrons shall be made to feel their mutual obligation and their mutual dependence in their momentous work. And when the church so identifies herself with this life-interest of the neighborhood, it can with greater boldness and authority speak of those things in which life itself is rooted.

Not only, however, should the rural church minister to the community's educational interests through the schools; it should further serve it by providing such education and amusement as the lives of the young people call for who have passed through the schools. If the country church fails to do this, one of three things happens. The young people of its constituency will either become recluses; or they will gather in some place where the very air is polluted, and where the brain becomes puddled, and the conduct corrupted; or else they will flock to towns where sadly enough only vile company seems open to take them in. The eyes of the country church must not be closed to these things. It is incumbent upon it to furnish the community with such formative agencies as will produce the most perfect and symmetrical manhood. If it does not do this it is recreant to its trust. The pastor should bind the leading men of his church and community so closely to himself that he can lead them in providing lectureships, entertainments, social gatherings, and the general items with which the play instincts of life are properly developed and are made to contribute their quota to the realization of the highest self. This will not detract from the spirituality of the church's ministrations; it will rather intensify them. Being identified with the life-interests of the neighborhood, the church with its pastor will thus, if they are so disposed and know how, be better able to identify the neighborhood with God.

In the third place, the rural church should serve the community by working to discourage what looks like the genesis of a new Irish Landlord System. The economic condition in many of the richer parts of our farming states is anything but conducive to social progress. Farmers stay on their farms until they have a good competence. While they are doing this, they do not feel very public-spirited, and when they have obtained their desired competence, they leave the farm and move into town. A renter is put on the farm to work it on shares

or for cash rent. This renter does not expect to make it his permanent home. There is no hope that he will ever be privileged to buy the farm, and he is not sure of living on it for more than one, two, or (say) five years. At all events he does not as a rule become a burden-bearing, burden-sharing constituent in the community any further than he is obliged to become by laws. The condition then in our country parishes becomes like this. We have two different parties living directly off the land—one is a resident without any great sense of community interest; the other is a non-resident getting his living out of the community, and contributing nothing to it, and perhaps in many instances never has contributed anything to it. Thus our country districts are impoverished and their social interests are made to lag. And indeed this situation would not be so serious socially, if when our farmers moved to town they became a social force in the communities in which they entered. But as a rule they do not become so. Nor are they altogether blameworthy that they do not become so. They are unfitted to be. Men who have always lived on a farm cannot feel at home in a city any more than a fish on land. The problem is an intricate one, and it may be better not to attempt a solution here, but one thing is very certain, that the influence of the country church is being thrown in the right direction when it works to save its own men to the country where they are men of influence, and when it works to prevent them from becoming non-producers and idlers in some little city. The social conscience of our country folk needs to be cultivated, and this is the social function of the country church whose Master is Jesus Christ, and whose spirit therefore must be social.

A fourth social function that the country has failed to recognize as it ought to do, and in many instances has failed to recognize altogether, is its relation to the foreign population which is so inevitably possessing our rural sections. A fallacious temper seems to pervade our Protestant churches in this country, which makes them feel that they have no mission except to men who speak the English language. The refuge of ease in which they reside is that the second generation of these immigrants will come along and join the church. What a travesty of the spirit of Christ whose Body is the church! The difficulties in reaching the people, and shepherding them, are indeed rooted in the most fundamental principles of social life—the principles of likeness and unlikeness.

These difficulties culminate in language, that greatest of social bonds and social forces. But because these difficulties, inhering as they do in the very structure of society, are so great, must the Church surrender, and must the country church make no attempt to overcome them? This is contrary to the Spirit that dwells in the Church. If men of other tongues and customs cannot be brought to respond to the same stimuli that we respond to, it is our business as priests in the Kingdom of God to furnish the stimuli to which they will respond, and to care for sheep which may not chance to belong to the same flock as ourselves. What about the sympathies of these hearts? What about their hungerings and thirstings? What about their spiritual needs? Have they none? Are they not Christ's own purchase? These hearts form the field of the country pastor and of his church, and once that field is occupied, these same hearts become the force of the country pastor and his church, and a power in their day and generation. It is a difficult field to occupy, but it must be occupied, for it contains rich treasure, aye, in many instances it contains the precipitant of the Reformation. If the pastor cannot occupy it by means of the English language and customs, let him do it by other means. Let him import help occasionally, if needs be, such as can furnish the proper stimuli to which the best in these people must respond. His church should support him. Or perhaps better still let him master the language and customs of these people himself. He can then minister to them himself. Must this be thought a thing too hard? Foreign missionaries do it. Why should not the home missionary? It would quicken his mental activity, enrich his linguistic powers, and furnish him the instrument by which he could communicate the bread of life to hungering hearts for whom Christ died.

Chicago Theological Seminary.

### THE SETTLEMENT AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

BY MARY K. SIMKHOVITCH.

The question has been raised, is not the Settlement becoming superfluous? Cannot the public educational system take over all the functions of the settlement?

This question involves a consideration of the nature of public education and of settlement work.

The work of the public school may be classified as educational in the narrower sense, as recreational, and as ethical. Education in its

narrower sense is yet far broader than educators of only a decade ago could have fancied possible. It includes both the ordinary academic instruction and the wider field of nature study and manual work that demand the training of those powers of observation and creation which the ordinary instruction ignores. Manual training is now of course everywhere recognized as an integral part of a real education that aims to bring out the latent powers of the child. The reason that manual work is able to accomplish this result is because the child in seeing and working at the actual processes of construction perceives a sequence, and the entire reasoning and perceiving faculties of the child are thereby developed. This result of a trained nature it is practically impossible to attain without the aid of manual instruction, although of course the need for this method is far greater for certain children than it is for others. This method, valuable as it is, cannot be used as extensively as an educational idealist would like, as the majority of children have to go to work at an age that allows of but a limited kind of training of any kind, and a sort of equilibrium has to be maintained between the clerical and manual method.

All this manual work is properly a part of the educational system, a deep and integral part—not a faddish frosting of the good old plain cake of arithmetic, writing and reading.

Any manual training work that the Settlement undertakes therefore must be regarded as temporary, or as experimental, to be undertaken to show what the public schools should adopt. But the Settlement cannot undertake even this experimental work satisfactorily; for not being systematically coordinated with the other elements in public education, it will be regarded as something outside the system and not as an integral part of it.

But while manual training is really a mandatory part of public education, there are other functions the public school may properly perform and the extension of which is desirable, such as the use of the school for games, for the organizing of excursions, and even, as may happen, for social evenings in which the parents of the children may share.

The organizing of clubs is another perfectly proper function of the public school. At present the lack of good club leaders and the bare and unsuitable accommodations of public school buildings render the school clubs unattractive in comparison with settlement clubs having homelike influences and surroundings. But there is no reason in the nature of things why

schools should not be built with this more liberal idea of education in mind. For the educational value of the club lies in its development of ethical relationships in society. To learn to live well in a club means how to live well in all those larger religious, political and social relationships to which the citizen is later introduced.

All these larger functions of public education are bound to be developed. The narrower interpretation of education is an inheritance of the older village conditions where the family life provided in a larger measure for the all-around development of children than the crowded, hurried life of the masses of our city population can afford.

But while it is true that the enlarged functions of public education will very likely make it unnecessary for the Settlement to continue the larger part of its club and class activities, this by no means involves the disappearance of the Settlement, but rather brings out to clearer view its more permanent functions.

The Settlement's true value consists in its becoming the local center of neighborliness, of the interpretation of neighborhood needs, and of civic influence. These functions of the Settlement follow in a natural sequence. The foundation of knowledge lies in the daily give and take of neighborly kindness and confidence. To know "conditions" one must know persons; for "conditions" are no economic entity unrelated to individuals. To hunt for "data" without the knowledge of the deep springs that underlie daily action is as unscientific as it is unpleasant.

But neighborliness alone won't do. "It must be unpleasant to be paid for being a neighbor," a headworker was told on the East Side. And there is something revolting and self-righteous about being a "neighbor" unless it leads to something further. The next step is the interpretation to the city and to society at large of those lives so unlike the life of the well-to-do and yet so fundamentally the same. Here is where the test of one's democracy comes in; does one truly believe that in the lives of the down-most is to be found the springs of personal greatness and of civic beauty and that what society has to do is only to recognize this fact and working on this basis to uplift the whole? Or is one skeptically to feel that society is to be regenerated from the top by the imposition of beneficent "improvements"? The Settlement if it stands for anything stands for this, that the seeds of a perfect society are to be found in the lives of the humblest, and that

under more favorable conditions the people at the bottom will have a chance to take their place at the table of life.

And then the Settlement, after its interpretation through its daily knowledge of the actual, must see to it that its protest against social mistakes gets recognized by society; that is, not only that laws get enacted, but that the social conscience rises to a higher plane.

Is the Settlement then to develop in this way alone—as a group of people working for the uplifting of the city and the averaging-up of social conditions? Has it no institutional character to look forward to at all? One cannot be doctrinaire in these matters, but it is safe to predict that for a long time to come one institutional development will be useful and in fact necessary; and that is the establishment of local buildings to be used as centers for local organizations. Clubs like to have permanent quarters. The public school cannot provide for this need. Organizations political, social or ethical need homes of their own. The Settlement will fill a great need by establishing such centers. This function too of the Settlement may disappear, for this movement for the establishment of local halls may well be undertaken either by a private corporation or by the city itself.

In the long run, then, the Settlement will find its real value in the three ways pointed out; first, as a neighborly group, second, as an interpreter to the public of the life and condition of the neighborhood, and, third, as an active protest against social errors and a positive force for social betterment. Naturally this is a somewhat academic conclusion. For communities differ in their ripeness for the enlarged functions of education and municipal undertakings in general. And the Settlement worker who amounts to anything is not going to follow a platform but is going to work under the given conditions. So we are not to condemn the institutional settlement or to give unstinted praise to the settlement of the other type; for it may well be that the activities of one may have a great temporary value (and values have to be measured in terms of time), and that the interpretation and protest of the other are valueless on account of the inefficiency of those who make up the band of workers. Nevertheless the Settlement on the whole should look forward to the second type as the more permanent.

For institutions and institutional activities one type of person is desirable; for the lasting type of Settlement another sort of person is

needed; and, let us confess it, the right persons for effective work of this kind are very rare. If such persons be found, they should not be allowed to be diverted from this life for lack of a private income. To endow persons would often be a better investment than to endow activities that may turn out to be of doubtful value. If a man be found with this rare gift of sympathetic insight, of effectiveness in making people listen to what he has to say, and in getting the public to want something better and to insist upon it, must he be driven to an uncongenial occupation in order to support his family? This is social wastefulness. And this brings us to the consideration of settlement work as a profession.

There are only a few who are fit to be leaders, and besides these those who live in settlements and who do the best work are most likely to be professionally engaged in other allied occupations. This leaves room, however, for those who voluntarily come and give their lives to the simple daily round of neighborliness which is the foundation on which the whole structure rests. In this relation mental training is subordinate to that training that comes from life itself.

But to the average young man or woman who thinks of entering settlement work as a profession one can only say, "Fit yourself for some work of definite use to society entirely apart from the settlement, and then you will be most useful there. Be a nurse, be a teacher in the public school, fit yourself to be a club director in the play center schools, be a lawyer, be an artist, be a public official—but be something definite, and then live among your fellowmen and for them, using your profession for that social uplift which is at once the inspiration and reward of those who have once caught the vision of the City Beautiful."

Greenwich House, 26 Jones St., New York.

#### **An Appeal to American Women in the Philippines by the Ladies at the Head of Settlement House.**

Through Bishop Brent the women at the head of Settlement House, Harriet B. Osgood, Margaret B. Spencer, Eliza Maria Staunton, Clara Thacher and Margaret Waterman, have issued a strong appeal to the American women in the Philippines. It is as follows:

The Transports and Liners are bringing to Manila scores of American women. Some stay in Manila, some go to the provinces. Many remain but a few weeks; a large number are the wives and relatives of officers of the army, or

officials in the civil service whose probable term of duty will keep them here for a period of years. A few even now announce their determination to make the Philippines their permanent home. Altogether, many American women are coming to these islands, and we want to ask what is to be the effect of their coming? and this seriously, not with mawkish sentimentality. We love America not merely because we honestly believe her to be enlightened and advanced in the path of true progress beyond the other nations of the world. The women, the wives, the mothers and daughters of America are her pride and glory. They have stood with American men in every movement where patriotism was involved. Intelligence and moral valor are their characteristics, and now their help is needed in the Philippines.

The only rational view of our relationship to these islands is that they constitute a grave responsibility; this is the view which is winning its way slowly but surely among the men of our land, both here and at home. It has to encounter a lazy conservatism and a selfish commercialism, but it is superior to both and will conquer. We women can help in the shouldering of this responsibility and we ought to do it.

Never were more difficult problems proposed to a nation. It will need our finest qualities, the best that is in us, to solve them. The problems are racial, educational, religious, economic, sanitary, therapeutic—a longer list might be made. Looked at in the largest sense the prospect seems discouraging, overwhelming. A prime requisite is patience—the patience which begets continued individual effort.

It is important to emphasize the value of individual effort. In the long run the natives will know us to be what we are, man for man, and woman for woman, in our personal and individual relationship toward them. Corporate and institutional work will do much, of course. But the truest Christian philanthropy results when Christ is born in a human heart to the needy one. And not only this individual effort, but continued effort. Narrow the sphere of our activity as much as we may, the prospect is still likely to seem almost hopeless for a long time to come. This should not cause us to draw back. One woman, isolated, can do something.

An instance—a letter—has come to us from an American woman, wife of an official of a town. We quote a part of it:

"\* \* \* There is so much need here of the most simple assistance, and the people not only



do not know how to render it to each other but they seem too ignorant even to apply for medical aid where it might be obtained. Just one little instance made me think that if even one person were willing to devote a part of his time to the work, a great deal might be done. There is a family across the street in which is a baby two months old. The people are not of the poorest class, as I found out later, but ignorant beyond everything. I heard the baby crying almost constantly for two days and I could not stand it any longer. I went over and took my house-boy to interpret for me, and when I asked the mother if the baby were sick she said 'No,' but at the same time asked me if I would not come up and see the baby. I went up, and, on looking at the child, found it covered with sores, some of the dreadful native skin diseases. I had no real knowledge of the disease, but I at once took over some simple remedies I had in the house, with plenty of clean bandages, and after the baby was washed and wrapped in them, with an ointment to allay the inflammation, she went to sleep and rested all the afternoon. There is a very good native doctor here, but the people never send for him, or anyone, unless they recognize that the trouble is really fatal. \* \* \* There is a great similarity in all these skin diseases and they are the particular bane here; the same remedies would serve for many cases. I have an abundance of time, and a house where the children could be brought and looked after while their mothers were given the necessary things—and really the help is so needed. Perhaps it would not be practical, but if you can see how I can help to extend in any way, even the most limited, the work of your social settlement, I shall be so very glad to be of some use. Americans have no place out here unless they can do some good. \* \* \*

A letter like this suggests possibilities and it is just because we believe the idea is entirely practical that we wish to propagate it. Our "Settlement House" in Manila has been started not for purposes of proselytism but that its workers, living among the natives, may exemplify the Christian life in its spirit of helpfulness. We shall try to get into close touch with the common people, learn their language, know their difficulties, see things as they see them. We shall have a well-equipped dispensary, with assistance of skilled physicians, native and American. A kindergarten is provided; other agencies of ministrations will doubtless be developed as time goes on. We particularly wish to have it understood that the use of any equip-

ment which may be gathered here and any experiences which we may acquire we shall gladly share with others.

To sum up and apply—our circular is thus an appeal to American women:

1. To enter upon their residence in the Philippines, whether it is to be brief or protracted, under a sense of responsibility. Our mission here is not to pass a holiday or to kill time. It will be easy in certain circumstances to allow social engagements so to tyrannize over one that both physical and moral health will suffer, or placed otherwise, time will hang heavily from lack of enough to occupy the days. In either situation, well-directed effort to help others will react beneficially upon one's own life and strengthen character.

2. To beware of adopting a prejudiced or despising or despairing attitude toward the people of the land. Their blood, their temperament, all their antecedents are different from ours. It will take a very long time at best before we can understand them. We must be patient, studious and prayerful. We may easily allow ourselves to think that the problems are most difficult; true faith forbids us to think them incapable of solution.

3. That each American woman should make some definite and individual effort for the betterment, the well-being, of some Filipino neighbor; this in a persistent, intelligent way. The letter above quoted will afford a hint. We expect to be able to furnish from Settlement House, upon application, such remedies and appliances as will be most frequently needed, and we invite the visits or correspondence of those who are interested.

4. To take advantage of any opportunity to train and teach the natives. We know the case of a woman of means, whose husband's occupation placed her in an isolated position, without enough to do. She gradually gathered the children of the natives around her, gained their confidence and affection and taught them much useful knowledge of a practical sort. There are doubtless many opportunities of a similar nature.

5. To consider whether some sort of association with our Settlement work would not help them and us alike to a better fulfilment of our common responsibility.

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"I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom."—Lincoln.

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"I do not impugn the motives of any one opposed to me."—Lincoln.

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EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY  
CAROLINE WILLIAMSON MONTGOMERY,  
5548 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago.

The Visiting Nurses' Settlement, 24 Valley St., Orange, N. J., has sent out a circular giving the character of the work, and schedules. Miss Margaret Anderson is head worker.

The first annual report of the Ridgewood Household Club has been received. The club is situated at 333 Bleacher St., Brooklyn, and the head worker is Miss Ethel R. Evans, who is well known as a former resident of the New York College Settlement.

The eleventh annual report of the Bermondsey Settlement, London, by J. Scott Lidgett (warden) emphasizes the greater need for the settlement extension in his neighborhood owing to the withdrawal of so many of the up-lifted forces of the neighborhood to the suburbs, and above all institutional methods and features places the spirit embodied in the Settlement as its most essential part.

The Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charity has published the report of special committee of the board of directors on Wife Desertion. They state that out of 6,664 cases dealt with during the past year in 211 families the distress was due wholly or in part to desertion of the father of the family. There is no adequate provision in Pennsylvania to deal with such situations by law. Accordingly the report follows these lines:

1. The present situation in Pennsylvania and how to better it.
2. A resume of laws and opinions in other parts of the United States.
3. Notes on some types of deserters.

**The Work Done by Vassar Students.**

Among the students of Vassar College a large number are engaged in social work of some kind or other. In connection with the Christian Association of the college, many of them help in the Sunday schools of Poughkeepsie, and in the Young Women's Christian Association. Many, also, are doing regular friendly visiting in connection with the churches in town. An effort is now being made by the College Settlement Association of Vassar to start a settlement on a small scale in the poorest portion of Poughkeepsie. A small group of children of a class not reached by any other organization in town has been gathered into the rooms of the Young Women's Christian Association by Miss Fannie Marens, a Vassar senior. The club thus formed has proved very successful, and has met regularly all winter. The rooms of the association were small and inadequate, and the need of larger accommodations was evident. The question of renting a few rooms came up and the idea of a small settlement grew. In connection with the Vassar students a committee of town people are acting and are endeavoring to help the enterprise along in a financial way. It is hoped that in the fall it will be possible to get a small house in the section of the city where the work is most needed, and to have some one person resident there. This house will then be open to all, and a kindergarten and clubs will be started. In the meantime, some clubs are to be organized this spring, in order to have a nucleus with which to start. Expeditions will be made with the children into the country about Poughkeepsie. In the summer, if it proves possible to obtain rooms in the public school, a six-weeks' kindergarten will be organized. Many of the students and of the townpeople have promised their help in the clubs which will be formed. It is, of course, necessary to start on a small scale, but great enthusiasm is being shown, and it is to be hoped that the plans will prove successful.

In the college itself for several years work has been done by the students with the maids, of whom there are over a hundred constantly employed. Educational classes, dancing classes, and entertainments have been held by the students each week, and have proved successful. A club house for the use of the maids—the need of which is keenly felt by all those who are interested—will be started as soon as enough money is raised. The whole cost, including an endowment fund, will be \$20,000. Of this, \$10,000 is necessary before the build-

ing can be begun, and between four and five thousand of this sum has been raised. The building will contain a large sitting room, a library, club rooms and a kitchen on the first floor. On the second floor, a matron's room, some rooms for clubs or classes and bathrooms.

In order to have some form of organization to control the management of this building, the maids have recently been organized into a club. They have chosen their name, elected their officers and drawn up their constitution themselves. Interest is shown by many, and the weekly meetings for social purposes are well attended. The maids are enthusiastic about the club house, and are themselves planning an entertainment, with the view of raising money toward the fund. It is hoped that it will be possible to build it soon, as the college is growing, and the need for it is to be felt more and more. Among the students there is a growing interest in all matters of a social nature, and the increasing willingness on their part to give of their time and their help is proof of this. In the fall, slips are circulated, stating those things in which a student may help. These are signed by those wishing to engage in work of this nature, and from the lists thus formed assignments are made by the committees in charge of the different branches of the work.

LEA D. TAYLOR.

Vassar College.

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## ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS, NEW YORK CITY.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY

MARY KINGSBURY SIMKHOVITCH;

26 Jones Street, New York City.

### Review of Prof. Zueblin's Lectures.

Prof. Charles Zueblin, of the University of Chicago, has just completed two courses of lectures before the Association of Neighborhood Workers of New York City on the "American Municipality" and "English Sources of American Social Reform." This is according to the plan of the Association to have a course of lectures on social topics for social workers each winter, and follows Mr. Robert A. Woods' lectures of last spring.

In the first course, the "American Municipality," Prof. Zueblin in six lectures discussed charters, franchises, municipal ownership, finance, the civil service and Democratic administration.

Though wonderful strides in civic improvement have been made in the last decade, our municipal government remains undemocratic. The reasons for this are manifold, but arise chiefly from the interference of the state in local affairs, "bossism" and the dominance of national political parties, the illiteracy in cities as well as the ignorance and indifference of many educated people in civic affairs, and the desire to shift the responsibility of city government on one man, the mayor.

To remedy this it is necessary to have better governing machinery, by which a more direct relation with the people can be obtained in the simplest possible manner. The number of elected officials should be reduced, perhaps, to the mayor and council; the functions of the council should be extended and made more important; the initiative and referendum should be encouraged; and intelligent citizens should unite in an independent municipal party. Too often the municipality is the creature of the state, regulating conduct and serving the mass of the consumers as the agent of the state, when it should be in itself an organization of the consumers. The frightful municipal corruption in so many of our cities in connection with granting franchises might be overcome by having all franchises drawn up by the city council, not by the corporation desiring them; then granted on the basis of competition and advertisement, and approved by the council and by a popular referendum. "Every franchise should include the privilege of municipal

ownership"—should the city desire it. Prof. Zueblin believes that municipal ownership promotes good citizenship, civic pride and private initiative. "The most important question at issue to-day," he says, "is the lack of initiative among the American people."

Yet the movement for civic improvement in the last decade has been most encouraging. It has already created a new civic spirit, has trained the citizen in administration, as well as remade the government of many of our cities. What we still need in municipal government is more simplicity, directness and publicity. In order to serve the consumers the municipality must be democratic, representative, provide a civil service and control its electorate. Municipal administration will be democratic as we realize the "public will" behind it. The people can generally be trusted in regard to conscience. When we have learned to trust the people, we shall have made a great moral and economic advance.

In the course on "English Sources of American Social Reform" Prof. Zueblin gave five lecture studies on the men who were the prophets of our modern social ideals—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Thomas Carlyle, John Ruskin, William Morris and Thomas Hill Green, with a final lecture on "The Legacy of the Nineteenth Century." These lectures have been an inspiration to all who were able to hear them, and have shown clearly the distinct place which each of these men held in reference to his time, as well as to our present "practical idealism."

The "Christian Socialism" of Coleridge was an outgrowth of the German philosophy, religious controversy, political reform, industrial evolution and the social distress of his day. The introduction of the factory system gave individual opportunity, and from it men began to work out economic laws. In the confusion of thought of his time, Coleridge saw clearly that the responsibility of the old feudal system was gone, and no new responsibility was put in its place. He had no conception, however, of our modern idea of organized social responsibility. He did not believe in democracy, nor in popular liberty, in the modern sense. His doctrine of "Social Service" was his greatest contribution to the social reform movement.

In "Carlyle's Attack on Laissez Faire," we find another great advocate of personal responsibility. Carlyle's teachings were largely negative. He was the great protestor of his time, the Jeremiah of the nineteenth century. He not only protested against the "Laissez Faire" philosophy, he also condemned the growing

faith in democracy, criticized the religious individualism of the churches, and denounced social shams. On the other hand, he believed in a feudal kind of industry, in which not only the "captains of industry," but organized industry itself, should have certain definite rights. He was far in advance of his time in demanding a universal system of education. His idea was that education should remake people by remaking their environment, was the same theory that we are at present trying to work out by means of our model tenements, small parks, public baths, playgrounds, etc. Carlyle was not scientific, but his plea was always human.

John Ruskin was a greater man than Carlyle and his teachings were more positive. His theory of "Benevolent Feudalism" was based on merit, as opposed to our modern social and industrial feudalism, which is based on money. The "cash relation" was almost as revolting to him as to Carlyle. He also felt deeply the need of personal responsibility, but his was the responsibility of the Baron. He had no share in the evolutionary and democratic ideas of the day. He was not a believer in liberty, as we understand it, but was an advocate of justice and a lover of men. He was one of the great men of Oxford who stimulated Toynbee and others to live in East London and originate social settlements. It was Ruskin who gave the first piece of ground for public playground purposes. As a man of wealth his doctrines of the ethics of wealth carried weight. He said, "There is no wealth but life," and he lived his philosophy.

Like Ruskin, William Morris was a rich man and an aristocrat, but he believed in "the common blood." He was more democratic than any of his predecessors. "He was the most versatile man of the nineteenth century," says Prof. Zueblin. As an architect, poet, designer and decorator, lecturer, teacher, organizer and master workman he made a marked impression on his time. In his work his aim was a "realization of art made for the people and by the people, a joy to the user and the maker." This artistic social instinct led to his "Romantic Socialism," which he thus defines: "It is right and necessary that all men should have work to do, work worth doing, work of itself pleasant, work done under such conditions as would make it neither over-wearisome nor over-anxious." The characteristic note of Morris' whole life was "fellowship." He puts his own belief in the words of his hero, John Ball, "Forsooth, brothers, fellowship is life and lack of fellow-



ship is death, fellowship is heaven and lack of fellowship is hell, and the deeds that ye do on the earth, it is for fellowship's sake that ye do them."

Thomas Hill Green was more of a practical politician than any of his great predecessors. An Oxford professor, a philosopher and a lecturer on Greek ethics, he was at the same time a man of activity in all political and human affairs—a member of the municipal council from Oxford, and a strong Liberal. He early expressed an earnest sympathy with the people, and with great breadth of mind and intelligence, opposed all oppressions and advocated reforms. His conception of the state was to "make it possible for people to realize themselves by obtaining a good which is a common good." This makes the first aim of the state a moral one. Green's ideal of the "common good" had a profound influence on English thought, and brought him a number of followers, of whom David G. Ritchie is the most conspicuous in social writings to-day.

The work and influence of Coleridge, Carlyle, Ruskin, Morris and Green was a part of the great industrial, democratic, economic and humanitarian movements of the last century. The results have been the organizing of trade unions and great co-operative societies, founding of trade and technical schools, development of representative municipal government, so that Great Britain has to-day the best city government in the world, civic and political reforms, and all kinds of humanitarian work which form such an integral part of our modern society. Modern philanthropy requires not only a sympathy with but a knowledge of humanity, and this is the great work of the social settlements. Education has become more democratic and is producing a broader culture among all classes than has been known before. The great ideal of the nineteenth century which has been given to us is liberty for the worker, equality for the citizen and fraternity for men and women.

LOUISE E. BOLARD.

Greenwich House, New York.

#### Four Labor Laws for the Better.

Since April 1st four bills have been passed by the legislature at Albany that mark a distinct advance in labor legislation in the state, especially with regard to children. These bills are the three child labor bills and the compulsory education bill and the points of chief importance made by them are as follows:

1. In cities of the first and second class no child under 14 years of age is to work in any

mercantile establishment or factory AT ANY TIME. Hitherto children from 12 to 14 years of age could work in stores during the school vacation.

2. Children from 14 to 16 years of age can work in mercantile establishments or factories but nine hours a day or 54 hours a week, instead of ten hours a day or 60 hours a week, as was allowed by the old law.

3. "Mercantile establishment" is defined to include besides stores, offices, restaurants, telephone, telegraph and messenger offices, express and delivery offices and the delivery departments of these same and of stores.

4. The requirements for securing working papers are made more rigid and include a birth certificate, school record and sound physical condition.

5. The children delivering for factories, laundries, bakeries, etc., are included in the action of the factory law.

6. No boy under 10 and no girl under 16 years of age shall sell newspapers on the street and no boy between 10 and 14 years shall do so unless he has a permit and badge and no such child shall sell papers after 10 p. m.

7. The age for school attendance is from 7 to 14 years of age instead of from 8 to 12. Boys from 14 to 16 that have not finished the common school course may attend night school instead of day school if they are at work.

The passage of these bills is the result of the combined effort of the departments concerned and the child labor committee reinforced by all the organizations interested in children and in social progress.

SUSAN W. FITZGERALD.

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# The Commons

A Monthly Record Devoted to Aspects of Life and Labor  
from the Social Settlement Point of View.

**GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - Editor**

Entered at Chicago Postoffice as Second-Class Matter, and  
Published the first of every month from CHICAGO COMMONS,  
a Social Settlement at Grand Ave. & Morgan St., Chicago, Ill.

50 Cents



A Year

## EDITORIAL.

### Arbitration of Trade Agreements.

The enormous growth in the number and power of industrial organizations now taking place is increasing the demand for arbitrating differences over trade-agreements. As the rapidly growing labor unions and the multiplying employers' association more nearly match each other in strength, there will be less dictating of terms upon the part of either and more necessity to come to agreement with each other, either directly or through boards of arbitration. The mutual respect begotten by nearly equal power will add new sanction to the inviolability of the contracts entered into between employers and employees, upon which the public as the great third party will have more and more to say and do.

The umpire, or third man, in these courts of conciliation, represents the public very much as the judges do the commonwealth in the law courts. The demand for men of good judgment and impartial attitude, who are enough in the confidence of both sides to give carrying power to their decision in either direction, is far greater than the available supply.

### A Compromise on Unionizing.

Called upon to break a dead-lock between the Wholesale Drug House Association and the union of their employees, the writer faced this situation. The employees insisted, as the condition of accepting the otherwise completed agreement, that there should be an article providing that two weeks after entering the service of any drug house every employee must join the union. The employers were equally determined in their decision not to discriminate for or against membership in the union in the hiring or discharging of employees. The fact that all the drug houses were included in the association and all their employees except from three to five per cent were members of the union made it possible for the umpire to propose and for the representatives of both sides unani-

mously to accept the following alternative to their respective ultimata, as the first article of the agreement:

"By signing this trade agreement it is understood that each party recognizes the full contract-right, responsibility and independence of the other; that both parties give preference to dealing only with each other's members; that neither party shall be estopped hereby from contracting with other individuals and organizations; but that if either party hereafter enter into contracts with others it shall in no case be on any other terms than are hereinafter specified, and shall only be for cause, which upon the demand of either shall be submitted to an umpire to be selected by the four arbitrators first provided for," i. e., by two representatives of either side.

These considerations may be urged in the interest of both parties for this attempt to flank the main point of attack and defense, around which the battle is on as nowhere else. It makes it far easier for them to deal with each other than with others outside their respective memberships. It makes it more difficult to discriminate against the claims which each has upon the other by virtue of entering into contract relations together. It requires cause to be shown why either should be justified in dealing with others in the judgment of a disinterested umpire. It leaves both parties free to enter into contract relations with others when the cause therefor is thus adjudged sufficient. Thus neither is forced to drive men into each other's ranks. But, in any event, all abrogation or evasion of the terms of the agreement between them as to conditions of employment are expressly prohibited. Why are not the interests and self-respect of both employers and employees provided for and safe-guarded by this agreement? What is there to hinder other labor unions and employers' associations adopting it, especially when either side embraces so nearly the whole constituency tributary to each organization?

### John Graham Brooks' Mediation.

It may well gratify Mr. John Graham Brooks to learn that arguments from his volume on "Social Unrest" are being quoted in boards of conciliation and arbitration for the settlement of industrial disputes. It is the most fundamental and practically helpful contribution ever made in America to the literature of industrial mediation. Its strength lies in the avowed recognition of the rights and wrongs on both sides of

the complex situation, and in its reportorial mission to present the reader with the facts as seen through the eyes and sensed by the intuitions of each of the great contestants in the titanic struggle for industrial freedom and justice. The author's wise insistence that trades-unionism is the conservatism of the labor movement is the best antidote to the indiscriminate and incendiary onslaught of such ranters as Parry. Employers, even in the National Association, which he is so unfit to lead, will not be slow to choose between the American Federation of Labor and the rampant political radicalism into whose ranks the conservative majorities of trades unions would be drawn by any successful policy of economic repression, much more of attempted legal suppression.

#### Public Indebtedness to Hull House.

For the summary of the Hull House investigation of the responsibility for the typhoid fever epidemic, from which the tenement house wards of Chicago suffered so great a loss of life and family resource last year, our readers are indebted to Dr. Alice Hamilton, whose expert investigations contributed invaluable to the result. By this fearless and scientific service the City of Chicago is again, more than repaid for all its citizens have ever done to cooperate with Miss Addams and her capable colleagues in making Hull House possible. It has really become a center of such civic importance that it deserves to be considered an extra-official department of the municipality. The effect of its impartial inquiry into the reasons for the continued existence of unsanitary conditions has already borne the first fruits of a greater harvest. A "stay book" has been unearthed at the office of the Commissioner of Health, containing the signatures of the officials whose "pull" was sufficient to suspend, if not nullify, the enforcement of the law against the specified properties which, on complaint, the inspectors reported to be in dangerous condition.

The cartoonists have begun to caricature the situation. The newspaper protest is unanimous. The mayor is moving toward a general investigation of the department through the civil service commissioners. And, best of all, something is being promptly done when complaints are lodged at the City Hall.

Next month's issue will be largely devoted to the report of Miss Gertrude Palmer to her instructors in sociology and economics on the "Savings and Spendings of Children," which she investigated while resident at Chicago Commons on the Michigan University Settlement Fellowship.

#### Chicago Commons Events.

The Warden has successfully conciliated three important industrial struggles within the past four months. In a long and hard-fought shoe-shop complication, involving evidence on the conditions of labor in thirty factories, scattered across the whole continent, his decision was accepted as final, after a four months' contest.

The hitch between the Employers' Association and the Employees' Union of the Chicago Wholesale Drug Houses was cut by substitution for the ultimatum insisted upon by each side, the compromise on unionizing, discussed on the editorial page, the unanimous adoption of which carried with it the acceptance of the entire agreement. The scale of wages and hours of the carriage and wagon-makers in Chicago was settled without difficulty or delay. In all these cases he was accepted by both as the disinterested third party. In the first he was nominated by the union, in the second by the employers, in the third his name was on both lists of nominees.

The dinner parties given to the six political party chiefs and the members of their respective ward "organizations", together with the citizens' mass meetings at which each of the mayoralty candidates were heard and questioned, were remarkably successful and are of strategic value in the policy of the settlement. The congratulatory occasions reported in the first article were the simplest and most cordial ever held in the house.

Professor and Mrs. Graham Taylor go abroad the middle of May for their six months' leave of absence. It is their first prolonged absence from settlement work in their eight years residence at Chicago Commons. A strong group of residents will maintain the full service of the house, and its outside friends should so provide for its support that the long-needed rest of the Warden should not be broken by solicitude for the finances.

The house-parties of residents at the Warden's cottage on the Macatawa shore of Lake Michigan during the kindergarten vacation every spring have been among the pleasantest experiences and memories of the many tired workers who have rested and refreshed themselves there. This year added the pleasure of a reunion with two former residents, who returned from a distance to share the fellowship once more.

Notifications of arrearage are being sent to all delinquent subscribers to The Commons, and no names will be gratuitously carried on the mailing list after Sept. 1, except those of the settlements, all of which receive complimentary copies. This is the first step toward placing this paper on a business basis.

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BOTH AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS, FREE ADMISSION.

Cooking, Manual Training, Girls' Club Work, Weaving, Sewing, Kindergarten,  
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Friday and Saturday Afternoons at 3:30 o'clock.

Boys' and Girls' Gymnasium Classes.

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Kindergarten Plays and Maypole Dance.

Friday Evening at 8 o'clock.

Cantata, "The Twin Sisters" - - - - by Girls' Clubs.

Saturday Evening at 8 o'clock.

Men's Gymnasium Work.

Songs by the Choral Club.

Stereopticon Views of Camp Commons.

## ADMISSION.

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**The Subscription Price is Fifty Cents a Year.** (Two Shillings, English; 2.50 francs, French—foreign stamps accepted.) Postpaid to any State or Country. Six copies to one address for \$2.50. Send check, draft, P. O. money order, cash or stamps, not above 5-cent denomination, at our risk.

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